

Claims

1. A communications system comprising:
 - a first server having an electronic mail (e-mail) database for managing
 - 5 e-mail accounts, for storing radio device addresses associated with those accounts, and for storing electronic mail messages associated with those accounts wherein each message has a header and text;
 - a gateway connecting the first server to a two-way radio network;
 - a radio device having a electronic messaging application, the radio
 - 10 device being capable of two-way communication over the two-way radio network;
 - wherein the first server comprises message handling software arranged to send, to the radio device, a portion of a message of a predetermined size, including a header portion and a text portion.
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2. The system of claim 1, wherein the radio device comprises a message generator and transmitter for generating a command and transmitting the command to the server over the two-way radio network to request a further portion of the text.
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3. The system of claim 2 wherein the first server maintains a database of e-mail messages associated with e-mail account identifiers and the radio network comprises a second server maintaining a database of paging messages associated with pager addresses, and wherein the first server
- 25 maintains a table correlating e-mail account identifiers with pager addresses.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the radio devices comprises means for entering a filter parameter and sending a message to the first server including the filter parameter.

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5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first server maintains filtering rules for selecting messages to be fed to the radio device according to a filtering parameter received from the radio device.
- 5 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the radio devices comprises means for entering a message length parameter and sending a message to the first server including the message length parameter.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the first server maintains a message
10 portion handling routine for feeding portions of messages to the radio device truncated in length according to the message length parameter.
8. The system of claim 1 wherein the first server further comprises means
15 for generating a notification message for sending over the two-way radio network to a radio device having a given radio device address when a message is received at the server addressed to an e-mail account corresponding to that address.
9. A radio device having a control circuit and memory and, stored in the
20 control circuit and memory, instructions and data which cause the control circuit to generate commands and send the commands over a radio network to a server, wherein the commands include commands to:
cause the server to feed messages to the radio device, and
for a selected message, cause the server to send more of the selected
25 message to the radio device.

10. A communications system comprising:

a private server to which one or more local terminals are couplable by wireline connection, the private server having an electronic mail (e-mail) database for managing e-mail accounts, for storing radio device addresses associated with those accounts, and for storing electronic mail messages associated with those accounts wherein each message has a header and text;

a gateway connecting the private server to a public two-way radio network;

a radio device having a electronic messaging application, the radio device being capable of two-way communication over the public two-way radio network;

wherein the server comprises message handling software arranged to:

(a) generate a notification message for sending over the public two-way radio network to a radio device having a given radio device address when a message is received at the server addressed to an e-mail account corresponding to that address; and

(b) send, to the radio device, a portion of the message of a predetermined size, including a header portion and a text portion.

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